

VAL VERDE COUNTY, TEXAS.

The county of Val Verde was created from the counties of Crockett, Kinney and Pecos in 1885, and was organized the same year. It is bounded on the east by the counties of Edwards and Kinney, on the north by Crockett, on the west by Pecos, and on the southwest by the Republic of Mexico. It is the sixth largest county in the State, having an area of 3,231 square miles, and is situated in its extreme southwestern part.

ITS PRINCIPAL WATER COURSES

are the Rio Grande, Pecos and Devil's Rivers, the Rio Grande, for a distance of more than one hundred miles, washing its southwestern boundary, besides other creeks, springs, etc.

THE TIMBER

of the county consists of mesquite, live oak, cedar, pine, ash, mulberry and hackberry, though not in abundant quantities, except along some of the water courses. Groves of fine forest trees, such as pecan, live oak, sycamore, willow and cedar grow along the Devil's river, and less luxuriantly along some of the other streams. The scenery along Devil's river, from its source in Beaver lake to where it mingles its crystal waters with the turbid current of the Rio Grande, partakes of that beauty and grandeur which so thrills the soul of the artist and every lover of the sublime and beautiful in nature.

THE STREAMS

abound in fish and the surrounding country in game.

No geological surveys have yet been made in Val Verde, so nothing positive can be said of its mineral resources. An abundant supply of

RED AND YELLOW OCHRE

of a superior quality has been discovered a mile east of Del Rio.

THE WATER

of a mineral well in the suburbs of Del Rio has been analyzed by Prof. Eberhart, of the Texas University, who pronounces it one of the finest waters for medicinal purposes yet known.

EXCELLENT LIMESTONE FOR BUILDING PURPOSES

can be quarried in the greatest abundance in various parts of the county.

THE CLIMATE.

is dry and exceedingly healthful, and is especially suited to persons troubled with asthma or consumption.

From an altitude of nearly 1,000 feet in the southeastern portion, it rises to that of more than 1,500 feet in its northern and western portions. Reports from the nearest signal station, Fort Clark, show the average annual rainfall there to be somewhat greater than 20 inches, the average annual temperature 70°, the monthly averages from 90° in July to 43° in December, the daily extremes from 105° in summer to 15° in winter. The register at Del Rio, thirty miles distant, would approximate the same in each instance.

THE COUNTY

has a total population of about 3,000. The chief occupations are stock raising and agriculture. The county is especially adapted to sheep raising.

THE SOIL

is a rich loam and produces well a great variety of fruits and vegetables, cotton, corn, oats, hay, sugar cane (the "ribbon" variety), melons and potatoes. The yield per acre of grapes is 5,000 pounds; potatoes, 90 bushels; corn, 25 bushels; cotton, from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ bales. A bale of Val Verde county cotton took the first premium for the best bale of cotton exhibited at the International Fair, held at San Antonio in 1890.

Improved lands sell from \$4 to \$100 per acre, unimproved for from \$1 to \$5. There are 960,000 acres of school lands in the county for sale.

The Southern Pacific Railway company owns 111 $\frac{3}{10}$ miles of railroad in the county, with property assessed at \$1,026,180. This road runs the whole length of the county from southeast to northwest along the bank of the Rio Grande. The company has erected a bridge across the Pecos river which ranks as the

HIGHEST, OR SECOND HIGHEST BRIDGE

in the world. Its main span is 800 feet in length and its height above the water 368 feet.

The principal shipping points are Del Rio, Comstock and Langtry.

THE SCHOOL POPULATION.

of the county is about six hundred.

THE TUITION REVENUE

received from the State for the scholastic year 1893-94 was \$2,898.00; interest received on sale of Val Verde county school lands, \$1,549.80; total amount of school funds, \$4,447.80.

PROPERTY VALUATION.

The total assessed value of realty in 1893 was \$1,413,875; of personality, \$418,862. The valuation of city property, was \$201,858. Total valuation, including railroad, etc., \$3,273,655.

STOCK.

The assessment rolls for 1892 give the number of horses at 2,620; hogs, 156; goats, 8,825; cattle, 38,040; sheep, 224,700.

FINANCES.

The county rate of taxation on the \$100 valuation is 55c. Indebtedness January 1, 1892: Outstanding court house bonds, \$38,000; jail bonds, \$5,265; bridge bonds, \$4,500.

DEL RIO,

the county seat, situated in the southeastern portion, three miles from the Rio Grande, has nearly 1,800 inhabitants; is an important railroad station, has several mercantile houses, each doing a prosperous business, a number of handsome public buildings and pretty residences, three neat church buildings—Episcopal, Methodist, and Mexican Methodist—(stone is on the ground for erecting a Catholic church), a good public school and two weekly newspapers—one printed in English and one in Spanish. A substantial iron bridge constructed across San Felipe creek connects East and West Del Rio; the principal streets and sidewalks are graveled and electric lights are supplied to dwelling and business houses.

A SPLENDID SYSTEM OF WATERWORKS.

supplies the town with an abundance of clear, pure water from the San Felipe springs, one mile northeast of it.

These springs, four or five in number, bursting as they do from the foot of low, rocky hills, present a very picturesque appearance, and are remarkable for their size, the number of fish that play in their clear, blue depths, and most of all, for the immense quantity of water they send forth. Besides furnishing water for the town reservoir and two railroad tanks, there flows from them the San Felipe creek; a bold, swift stream, carrying a volume of water sufficient to supply the whole system of irrigating ditches for 3,000 acres of land in the San Felipe valley, and still has left more than treble the quantity of water necessary to run the ice factory, grist mill and two cotton gins that are built upon its banks.

With the Fort Worth & Rio Grande Railroad secured, and with capital and enterprise to develop its natural resources, the future possibilities of Val Verde are great.

A. I. D.

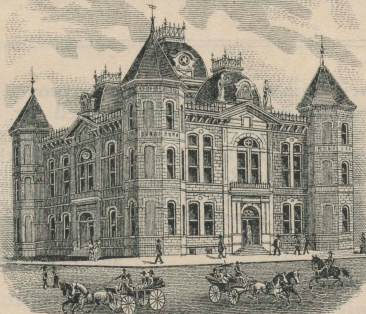
VAL VERDE COUNTY, TEXAS.

COUNTY OFFICIALS:

W. K. JONES, Judge. W. H. JONES, Sheriff & Coll.
G. W. BROWN, County & Dist Clerk, THOMAS HANS, Inspector
J. G. GRINER, Attorney. W. W. FREEMAN, Treasurer
J. NO. GLYNN, Assessor, J. H. BRAUER, Surveyor.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:

S. H. BARTON, Precinct No. 1.
H. P. ROBERTS, Precinct No. 2.
J. NO. W. ALMOND, Precinct No. 3.
N. VON ROSSUM, Precinct No. 4.



Del. Rio, Texas, Jany 5th 1895

W. H. Beaumont
H. alde Dey

Dear Sir:-

Citations of the State vs. Jno Ashby & Co. was received and same was forwarded to my Deputy at Langtry. Mr Ashby lives on the Pecos river in the upper edge of this County, and as my Deputy has not returned original citation to me. I do not know if he has been served with copy or not. Will write my Deputy to send in his return at once.

Yours Respt

W. H. Jones Shro
By W. H. Jones Shro